



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 6400.4

August 22, 2003

ASD(HA)

SUBJECT: DoD Veterinary Services Program

References: (a) [DoD Directive 5136.1](#), "Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs," May 27, 1994
(b) [DoD Directive 5101.1](#), "DoD Executive Agent," September 3, 2002

1. PURPOSE

Under the authority of reference (a) and in accordance with the provisions of reference (b), this Directive:

1.1. Identifies the purpose, policies, and responsibilities for veterinary services within the Department of Defense.

1.2. Designates the Secretary of the Army as DoD Executive Agent for the DoD Veterinary Services Program.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

3.1. Ensure food ingredients and food products are safe, wholesome, and meet quality standards.

3.2. Provide comprehensive veterinary care for U.S. Government-owned animals supported by appropriated funds.

3.3. Provide veterinary services for the prevention and control of animal diseases and conditions that present a public health threat to the military community.

3.4. Provide veterinary support to the DoD Components for research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) and for training activities.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

4.1.1. Oversee the DoD Executive Agent for DoD Veterinary Services.

4.1.2. Issue guidance on veterinary services in accordance with this Directive.

4.1.3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of those instructions.

4.2. The Secretary of the Army shall:

4.2.1. Act as the DoD Executive Agent for DoD Veterinary Services.

4.2.2. Ensure uniform use of veterinary services throughout the Department of Defense to include:

4.2.2.1. Delegate authority to the Surgeon General, U.S. Army, to act on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for assigned responsibilities, functions, and authorities of the DoD Veterinary Services Program to:

4.2.2.1.1. Control animal diseases communicable to man.

4.2.2.1.2. Provide veterinary care for Government-owned animals supported by appropriated funds.

4.2.2.1.3. Provide military veterinarians for RDT&E and training, when required by the DoD Components.

4.2.2.1.4. Develop military sanitary standards for commercial food plants providing products to the DoD Components.

4.2.2.1.5. Develop approved lists of food suppliers to be published by the Department of the Army.

4.2.2.1.6. Provide laboratory examinations of food products.

4.2.2.1.7. Provide on-base inspection of food products at all joint procurement and storage facilities and facilities under the control of the Departments of the Navy and the Army (excluding food preparation facilities).

4.3. The Secretary of the Air Force:

4.3.1. Shall provide the food inspection program at Air Force bases.

4.3.2. May develop locally approved lists of food suppliers from which food products are procured only for individual Air Force installations.

4.4. The Heads of the Other DoD Components shall coordinate with the DoD Executive Agent on related matters under their areas of cognizance.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.


Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense